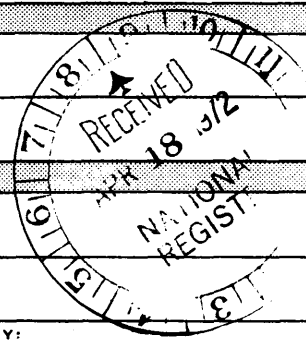


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| STATE:<br>New Jersey |      |
| COUNTY:<br>Essex     |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY     |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER         | DATE |



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Catedral Evangelica Reformada

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
First Reformed Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
27 Lincoln Park and Halsey Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newark

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Essex CODE: 013

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)                                                                                                                                                                     | OWNERSHIP                                                                                                       | STATUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|                                        |                                     |                                               |                                          |                                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious |                                          |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific           |                                          |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Catedral Evangelica Reformada

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Lincoln Park and Halsey Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newark

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Essex County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:  
High Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newark

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Office of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:  
Trenton

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| STATE:<br>New Jersey | FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| COUNTY:<br>Essex     |                  |
| ENTRY NUMBER         | DATE             |

7. Description  
APR 18 1972  
CLINTON AVENUE CHURCH

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Much of the edifice is in good condition. The interior is very intact. There is considerable deterioration of certain exterior stonework - including detailing within hand's reach of passers-by, which is in urgent need of attention.

The church has a corner tower and general aspect something like Upjohn's Grace Church of 1848, but the whole is much enlarged and more elaborated. In contrast further to Grace Church, there is at least very limited restrained amount of contrasting color stonework in detailing the lower portion, i.e., the entrance arcade portico, but the overall aspect (unlike the more typically William A. Potter's 1874-74 church on Broadway, Newark) is more similar to the much earlier Grace Church than dissimilar (an affinity not diminished by both subjects being time-darkened brownstone). Thus despite some obvious differences, it is the more predominate similarities which group this Clinton Avenue church with the earlier period as the concluding work thereof for Newark, at least.

The corner tower situation is reminiscent further of the even larger St. James' (RC) Church of 1863-66, with its vast 235' stone spire. The stone spire of First Reformed, though, must be close to the height of the center spire of First Methodist Church on Market Street, which is between 190' and 200'.

The broach spire effect, characteristic of the early Gothic movement, is also not unlike that of the House of Prayer built in 1850, in addition to Grace Church. In the tower, as through the church, there is elaborate detailed buttressing with weathering plates. Below the broach where the tower gives way to the spire proper, there are four large stages or stories, with a deeply recessed pair of arched windows large with louvers, the bell chamber level.

The next lower stage has but a single relatively small Gothic arched window with dripstone on each face; the story below that, small paired windows on the three still exposed tower sides, and the tall street level stage, a single large pointed window in the facade. The tower stages are defined by slightly projecting cornicework, with the buttressing having weather plates also in mid-stage. The stone spire has one Gothic-gabled-arched skylight window on each side, all at the same height. The top is a finial appearing as a small cross in stone cluster. On the large church facade, well below the simple peak of the main gable, is a large pointed Gothic window, with elaborate tracery, topped by three round multi-foil windows, below which are four tre-foil sub-windows. The bottom of the whole fenestration rests a few feet above the gables, both parallel and perpendicular to the facade, of the 3 arch -- arcaded entrance porch, in which the central of the portico's 3 open archways, each filled with wrought-iron decorative grillwork gates, is by far the largest - framed within its own gable. The recesses of this arcade offer bold contrast. To the left of the entrance arcade is a smaller, but sizable tower which tapers, as it rises, from a generally square plan to an octagonal lantern effect topped by a stone spire, and cluster finial similar to the doubly tall main spire. The broad facade continues farther to the left, past the smaller tower, including an additional gabled section.

The long side of the church, along Halsey Street features a number of regularly-spaced large buttresses, interspersed with large, tall sanctuary windows of pointed Gothic arches. Farther down Halsey Street is (Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. Significance

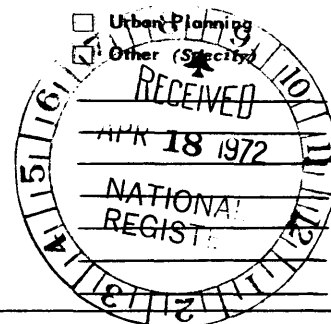
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Erected 1868-1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☒ Religion/Philosophy☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Theater☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The church ("Catedral") is significant for:

- 1)...its architecture, as the final Newark church of the early Gothic Revival. The church is transitional toward Victorian Gothic, but still predominated by its enlarged common features with the earlier Newark Gothic meetinghouses. It was designed by a very accomplished local architect, Thomas A. Roberts, who, while expressively artistic, is best known as having worked on various noted structures according to earlier architectural precedents and choice commissions in which he inherited plans and forms from nationally noted architects.
- 2)...its history as the successor church, by merger many decades ago of two prominent Reformed congregations from Clinton Avenue, wherein the former Clinton Avenue Reformed Church absorbed the more historic First Reformed and adopted its name. The First Reformed Dutch Church, the original full name, had earlier been on Market Street and was the premier church of the Reformed Dutch denomination in one of its key cities.
- 3)...the Spanish-speaking church work, currently succeeding the English in which community outreach work is centered for people of the Parish constituency from 12 different Spanish-speaking countries, concentrated particularly in the Lincoln Park- South Broad area.

The architectural distinction is covered in part, within the descriptive narrative under Section 7.

As the final church of the earlier period for Newark, it has qualities lacking in the other Newark works of the 1870's, notably 3 coincidentally concentrated Victorian Gothic Churches within several blocks of each other of Newark's Broadway (once Belleville Avenue). All differing more in form and in polychromatic effect or masonry courses:

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, originally Park Presbyterian Church built 1872-74, Thomas Stent, architect, wide use of two tone stone effect  
Clinton Memorial A.M.E. Church, originally Belleville Avenue Congregational Church built 1874-75, Italianate Gothic (Victorian) with alternating colors, and side campanile - Gothicized by noted Victorian architect William A. Potter.

St. Michael's Church (RC) built 1878-79 by Jeremiah O'Rourke, more Victorian than various of his other works, in its brick polychromy - red, cream, and black - boldly alternated.

After examining these three above subjects, so unlike the earlier Gothic in so many additional respects, it will be clearly recognized how unlike them is the First Reformed Church, and how relatively at home the latter seems among the earlier churches, by comparison.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newark Daily Advertiser. 7/29/1875 regarding the 1874-75 addition to John Welch's Eberhardt Hall (Newark Orphan Asylum). See also earlier edition, 2/19/1874 of the same paper.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER                                                                           | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE                                                                                                | LONGITUDE               |  |
|                                                                                  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds                                                                                 | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW                                                                               | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    | 40 0 43                                                                                                 | 74 0 10                 |  |
| NE                                                                               | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    |                                                                                                         |                         |  |
| SE                                                                               | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    |                                                                                                         |                         |  |
| SW                                                                               | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    |                                                                                                         |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Donald W. Geyer, Licensed professional planner & architectural historian

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 9/71

STREET AND NUMBER:  
351 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: New Jersey CODE: 31

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name: Richard J. Sullivan  
Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/26/72

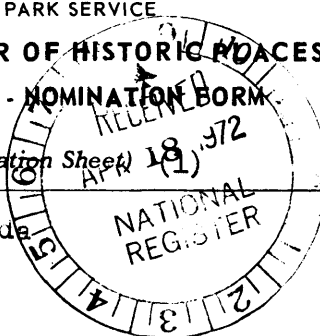
ATTEST:  
William J. Murty  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| New Jersey       |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Essex            |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |

(Number all entries)

Catedral Evangelica Reformada  
New Jersey Code: 34  
Essex Code: 013

Section 7: Continued

the attached lateral large bulk, of comparable roof-ridge height, of the Parish Hall, appearing as though a great transept. The whole of exposed areas are in brownstone, excepting minor contrasting stonework.

The interior is the largest and most spacious of Newark's meetinghouses of a size, decor and comparative formality to be called a "Catedral" by its present Spanish-speaking constituency. Meetinghouse side galleries, of great elaboration of balustrades, supporting columns, and open beam roof support structure (Gothicized) rising there from and extend the full length of the long nave. There is a large loft also in the rear, slightly higher than the side galleries, above the wide vestibule. This rear loft, by comparison, is less embellished, though with similar balustrades, and the rear wall has a large blank area other than the very large facade window. The nave ceiling is of light-colored painted rectangular wood panelled areas defined by smaller east-west and north-south beams.

The large side windows have pointed Gothic arches. Immediately within the arch top of each is a quatre-foil window which divides the fenestrated area below it into a pair of long, pointed tre-foil windows.

The interior front, within the framing of the ceiling beam support structure, has a bold huge Gothic pointed arched area, within which is a very large Gothicized pipe organ. The woodwork thereof is considerable and blends with the similarly elaborate woodwork of the front choir loft, and screen behind the pulpit. The pews of similar wood have elaborated tall knobs. A large, broad, heavy pulpit lectern is in the front center of the pulpit area. A handsome stone font-down at floor level, a tall bronze or brass eagle on a stand, pulpit chairs, communion table are all elaborate decor pieces, which, with flags and urns, complete a very richly furnished chancel. The effect of some of these furnishings is mostly heavy and inclining toward Victorian, but some of the early Gothic Revival Churches, had such ostentatious ornate pieces relatively early in the Gothic Revival Movement. On the whole, the woodwork, in its many uses, is the predominate ingredient characterizing the interior. But the plan of the interior, except for the lesser details, in all its extended size as the largest and last of the side galleried Gothic meetinghouses, is definitely in affinity with the early Gothic Revival.

Section 8: Continued

Architect Thomas A. Roberts, of Newark, achieved some considerable distinctions in his day. His St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of 1863-64 appears as distinctly his expression within the disciplined early Gothic Revival Movement. It is as quaint of scale as First Reformed is expansive. First Reformed reflected his gradually more advanced transition toward Victorian, without abandoning the essential forms and overall effect of the English Parish Church, as with Britain's esteemed William Butterfield. (Continued)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) (2)

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| STATE<br>New Jersey |      |
| COUNTY<br>Essex     |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY    |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER        | DATE |
|                     |      |

(Number all entries)

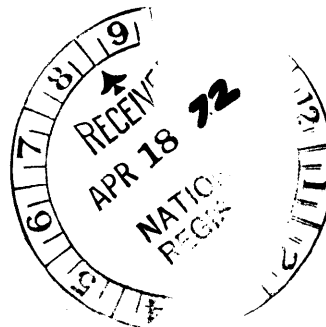
Catedral Evangelica Reformada  
New Jersey Code: 34  
Essex Code: 013

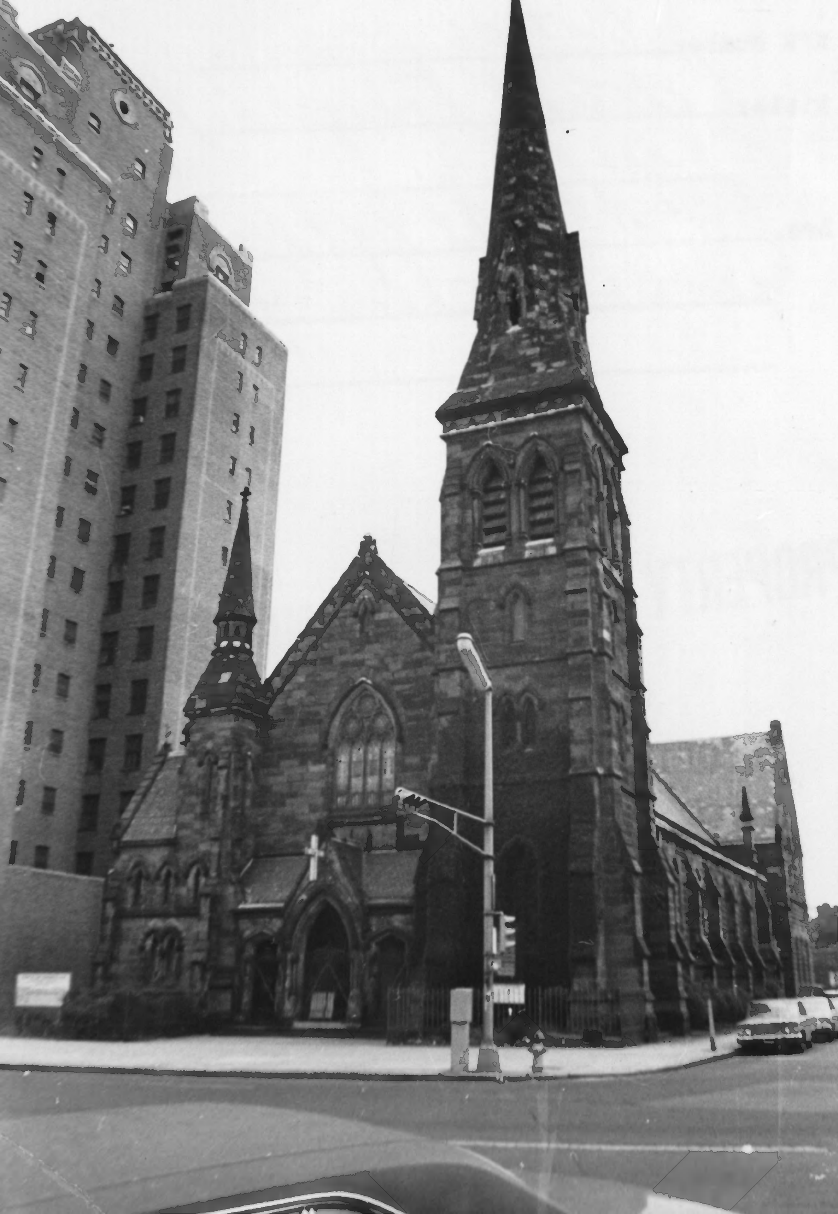
Section 8: Continued

While Roberts appeared to employ details of a wide variety of creativity in leaning towards Victorian fittings, his full originality and versatility were not fully explored by 1971. Nor was the final credit for the individual fittings authenticated. Roberts scholarship would appear to be in order, and his adherence to the styles of slightly earlier than his time is borne-out in his being commissioned by 2 highly responsible bodies to make additions to the noted works of two great masters. He is known to have visited Europe. His 1875 work on the old (demolished) Essex County Court House was in addition to that unique Egyptian Greek Revival 1837 Court House by nationally noted John Haviland, and his 1874-75 addition to John Welch's Eberhardt Hall (NCE) built in 1857 as the Newark Orphan Asylum. Roberts was sometimes in partnership with others, but for the two churches mentioned, only his name is mentioned in any single reference. He merits further study for additional works.

**Congressional Representation**

Peter W. Rodino, Congressman (10th District)  
Clifford P. Case, U.S.Senator  
Harrison A. Williams, U.S.Senator







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| STATE<br><u>New Jersey</u>         |      |
| COUNTY<br><u>Essex</u>             |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                   |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br><u>Oct 26/1972</u> | DATE |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Catedral Evangelica Reformada  
AND/OR HISTORIC: First Reformed Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

27 Lincoln Park & Halsey Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Newark

STATE:

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

013

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Donald W. Geyer

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

351 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey with Donald W. Geyer

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Frontal, slight left diagonal, from south showing facade,  
entrance, towers & spire, side.

